

### REMARKS

Applicant requests favorable reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-20 are presented for consideration. Claims 1, 8, 16 and 18 are independent. Claim 16-20 have been added to recite additional features of the subject invention. Support for these claims can be found in the original application, as filed. Specifically, the subject matter of independent claim 16 can be found in the original disclosure at least on pages 20 and 21 with respect to the discussion of Figure 4, whereas the subject matter of independent claim 18 can be found in the original disclosure at least on pages 24-26 with respect to the discussion of Figure 6. Therefore, no new matter has been added.

Claims 1-15 were previously allowed in this application. In addition to these claims being allowable, Applicant submits that claims 16-20 should be deemed allowable for patentably defining features of the device manufacturing method and the charged-particle beam exposure apparatus of the present invention.

Applicant submits, therefore, that the instant application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven E. Warner", is written over a horizontal line.

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